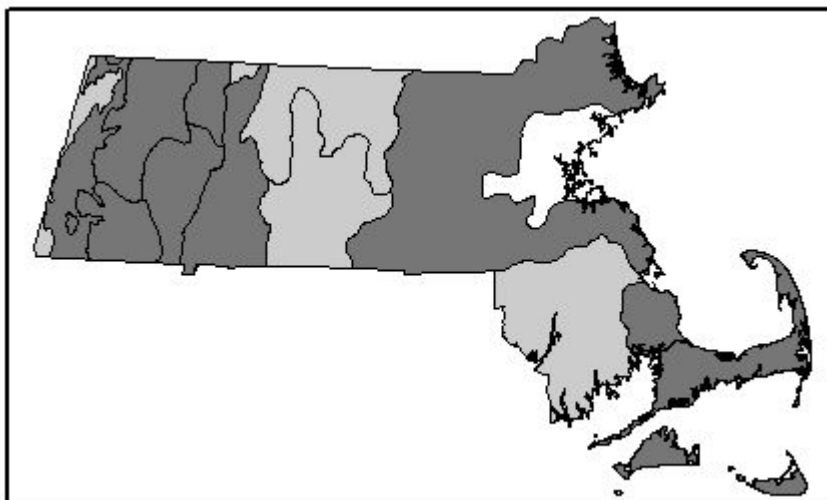


**Community Name:** FOREST SEEP COMMUNITY

**Community Code:** CT1C2B1000

**SRANK:** S4



**Concept:** Hardwood forests on slopes, with small springs and seeps on mucky soils. Canopy is from or similar to, the surrounding forest, but shrub and herbaceous layers species are typical of wetlands or mesic areas.

**Environmental Setting:** Seeps may be near stream headwaters, or may be isolated with the water absorbed into the surroundings. They occur where the top of the ground water table intersects the surface, and the water emerges.

**Vegetation Description:** Canopy is usually northern hardwood species such as sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and white birch (*B. papyrifera*). Other sites have hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) spruce (*Picea rubens*), and scattered white pines (*Pinus strobus*) among the hardwoods. Ferns are typical: cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), silvery spleenwort (*Deparia acrostichoides*), rattlesnake fern (*Botrychium virginianum*), and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). Golden saxifrage (*Chrysoplenium americanum*) primarily occurs in seeps. Scouring rush (*Equisetum hyemale*), false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), water avens (*Geum rivale*), an assortment of sedges are among the other plants found at seeps.

**Associations:** Presented as distinct from palustrine seeps, but may be just a small version.

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** These small communities provide parts of the habitats of the species of surrounding communities. Most tree dwelling species would not be affected by the presence of small seeps below. Star-nosed moles (*Condylura cristata*) would be expected in seeps of any kind. If the water from the seeps stays in topographic low areas those may function as vernal pools, and support vernal pool breeding species. Where even small amounts of sphagnum moss build up, four-toed salamanders (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) may be found, and in larger patches, Southern bog lemmings (*Synaptomys cooperi*) may be present.

**Associated Rare Plants:**

EQUISETUM SCIRPOIDES	DWARF SCOURING-RUSH	SC
PLATANThERA DILATATA	LEAFY WHITE ORCHIS	T
SPHENOPHOLIS PENSYLVANICA	SWAMP OATS	T
SPIRANTHES ROMANZOFFIANA	HOODED LADIES'-TRESSES	E

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**Associated Rare Animals:**

HEMIDACTYLIUM SCUTATUM	FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER	SC
POLYCELIS REMOTA	SUNDERLAND SPRING PLANARIAN	E
SOREX DISPAR	LONG-TAILED SHREW	SC
SYNAPTOMYS COOPERI	SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING	SC

**Examples with Public Access:** Savoy Mountain State Forest, Savoy; Sunderland Fish Hatchery, Sunderland.

**Threats:** Exotic species: water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) can be abundant. Water flow needs to be maintained, large wells can impact small wetlands. Several locations have had natural mud or rock slides.

**Management Needs:** Exotic removals in sites where practical.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:**

**MA (old name):** part of SNE SEEPAGE FOREST

**ME:** Not described.

**NH:** 1994: Northern Hardwood Seepage Forest

**VT:** Possibly a small type of Woodland Seep/Spring run community.

**NY:** Not described.

**CT:** Not described.

**RI:** Not described.

**Weatherbee:** Calcareous variant is part of Calcareous Seep Community.

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